

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FR, MB, PFOR, PINT

SUBJECT: FRENCH DEVELOPMENTS RE DISTURBANCES IN FRENCH
GUIANA

REF: STATE 1796

SUMMARY. OPPOSITION LEADER FRANCOIS MITTERRAND VISITED
GUIANAIS PRISONERS IN PARIS ON JANUARY 7 AND CALLED
THEIR ARREST RESULT OF AN "INVENTED PLOT". END SUMMARY.

1. THIS POST HAS NO DIRECT INFORMATION BEARING ON THE
ALLEGED DISTURBANCES.

2. AS A MATTER OF POSSIBLE INTEREST TO ADDRESSEES WE
NOTE THAT ON JANUARY 7, FRENCH SOCIALIST PARTY (PS)
FIRST SECRETARY FRANCOIS MITTERRAND VISITED THE EIGHT
GUIANAIS WHO HAD BEEN ARRESTED IN GUIANA AND WHO HAD
BEEN TRANSFERRED FROM CAYENNE TO PARIS ON DECEMBER 23.
AT THE END OF HIS 75-MINUTE INTERVIEW WITH THE PRISONERS,
MITTERRAND GAVE A STATEMENT TO THE PRESS IN WHICH HE
SAID THAT IN VISITING THE PRISONERS, HE WISHED TO
DRAW "ATTENTION TO THE COLONIAL REALITY" WHICH IS
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GUIANA AND TO THE POOR IMAGE WHICH FRANCE GIVES OF IT-

SELF. "A PLOT WAS INVENTED," SAID MITTERRAND, WHO WENT ON TO SAY THAT NO POLITICAL ACTIVITY HAD OCCURRED IN GUIANA SINCE THE PEACEFUL POLITICAL DEMONSTRATIONS A FEW MONTHS AGO.

3. MITTERRAND WAS ACCOMPANIED ON HIS VISIT TO THE PRISONERS BY HIS SON CHRISTOPHE AND BY CLAUDE ESTIER, PS NATIONAL SECRETARY FOR THE PRESS.

4. COMMENT. CHRISTOPHE MITTERRAND, THE PS FIRST SECRETARY'S OLDEST SON, HAS LONG BEEN ACTIVE IN SUPPORT OF THE GUIANAIS' INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT AS WELL AS IN SUPPORT OF OTHER POLITICAL MOVEMENTS DEALING WITH THE OVERSEAS TERRITORIES AND DEPARTMENTS OF FRANCE. IT IS ENTIRELY POSSIBLE THAT THE FATHER'S INTEREST IN THE QUESTION WAS SPARKED BY THE SON'S INVOLVEMENT. END COMMENT.
RUSH

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